

## STERILE COMPARTMENTED PACKAGING ARRANGEMENT

### TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a sterile compartmented packaging arrangement and more particularly to a medical procedure supply kit that keeps medical supplies used in a multiple stage medical procedure that is conducted over a time interval of hours, days or longer, sterile and together yet separable so that the necessary supplies for a given stage can be accessed in stages when needed.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Many different medical supply kits and/or trays are available for many of the known medical procedures. These kits and/or trays typically include sterile medical supplies in some sort of sealed packaging.

[0003] Institutions and care providers are often compelled to obtain individually packaged medical supplies, or kits and/or trays that include all the medical supplies necessary for a medical procedure bundled in a single package.

[0004] However, many medical procedures are staged procedures, wherein some medical items or supplies in a sterile condition are required presently and other additional medical items in a sterile condition are required at a future period, hours or days later. In these situations, use of individually packaged medical supplies is not desirable and kits and/or trays containing the required medical supplies once opened to obtain the items needed to begin a procedure suffer the fate of having the items required in future stages to become exposed to the environment and pose a health risk when used in the future.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention provides a package containing items for any two, or more, staged medical procedure in which a care provider requires some items in sterile condition presently and other items for a subsequent stage or stages hours or days later.

[0006] The present invention also provides a sterile compartmental packaging arrangement wherein some items are used in a dirty part of the procedure and for aseptic and infection control reasons the rest of the items or components are kept sterile until just before the clean procedure use.

[0007] Accordingly a medical procedure supply kit meeting the needs and objects of the invention includes at least two compartmented trays adapted for containing medical supplies. The trays are separably connected to one another along a perforated edge. Each tray contains the medical supplies required for one stage of a multiple stage medical procedure. With this construction the medical supplies for each stage are kept together and useable in stages by separating the trays along the perforated edge and opening each tray separately. Further, both portions of the kit may be identified with the same code number to help facilitate accurate medical accounting and billing and tracking.

[0008] In a disclosed embodiment each tray includes a compartment having a bottom and side walls and a cover removably sealed over the compartment. Each compartment contains medical supplies. The compartment and cover are

made of plastic with suitable sterile barrier properties and the cover may be heat sealed or otherwise adhered over the compartment.

[0009] The trays are adapted to maintain the medical supplies in a sterile environment.

[0010] In a more specific embodiment, a medical procedure supply kit for hemodialysis machine procedure includes two compartmented trays separably connected to one another along a perforated edge. The non-contact edges of the kit are not perforated. One of the trays is adapted to contain medical supplies for starting a patient on dialysis. The other tray is adapted to contain medical supplies for removing the patient from dialysis. Supplies for starting and removing the hemodialysis patient from the dialyzer machine are sometimes referred to as (ON-OFF) kits, or trays. This kit provides all the medical supplies required for the staged procedure and allows a care provider to pull an ON-OFF kit from medical supplies stock room, open each tray separately, when required, and separate the trays from one another for use.

[0011] The tray for starting dialysis may include drape, mask, sheet of labels, PVP prep pad, alcohol prep pads, needles and syringes. The tray for removing a patient from dialysis may include a dialysis use only label, a sheet of labels, alcohol prep pads, non-vented plugs, needles, syringes and island dressing, or other items.

[0012] A method for use in a medical procedure requiring sterile medical supplies at spaced time intervals in the procedure, includes the steps of:

[0013] providing a kit including a plurality of compartmented trays wherein the number of compartmented trays represents the spaced intervals in the procedure when sterile medical supplies are desired;

[0014] each compartmented tray is connected to another compartmented tray along a perforated edge for separation by a care provider;

[0015] separating each compartmented tray as its sterile medical supplies are needed in the procedure;

[0016] opening the tray to access the needed medical supplies; and

[0017] repeating the steps of separating and opening according to the demands of the procedure.

[0018] A method of using the kit in a dialysis procedure includes two compartmented trays; one tray including sterile medical supplies for starting dialysis; and the other tray including sterile medical supplies for removing a patient from dialysis.

[0019] The method includes the steps of separating the tray for starting dialysis from the tray for removing a patient from dialysis along said perforated edge;

[0020] opening the tray for starting dialysis and using the sterile medical supplies therein as needed to initiate dialysis; performing the dialysis; and

[0021] opening the tray to remove the patient from dialysis and using the sterile medical supplies therein as needed to discontinue dialysis.